

Teacher in Palisades Park Junior-Senior High School; Educational Specialist and Educational Planner for the New Jersey State Department of Education; District Project Director and Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction at New Jersey City University. He has lectured at several colleges and has presented at the University Council for Educational Administration Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Bergen County is the largest county in New Jersey with over 895,000 residents and more than 135,000 students. As Bergen Executive County Superintendent, Dr. Graham supervises the county's 78 school districts and nearly 300 schools. In this capacity he has provided educational leadership to school leaders and staff members on strategic issues, student achievement, program improvement, fiscal review, curriculum and professional development. He has provided leadership in building positive relationships between and among school boards, administrators, staff, students, parents, and communities.

In 2002, Dr. Graham received a Congressional Citation for Excellence in Educational Reform and Leadership. In 2003, he received the first Bergen County Leadership Award from the Bergen County Association of School Administrators. In 2005, the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers awarded Dr. Graham lifetime membership, and in 2006, he received a 50th Anniversary Honoree Award from Bergen Catholic High School. Dr. Graham serves on the National Faculty of the National Principals Leadership Institute and served as the President of New Jersey Council of Education from 2008 to 2009.

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join with me in honoring Dr. Aaron Graham for his fourteen years of service to Bergen County, New Jersey and on his retirement as one of America's finest educators.

TRIBUTE TO DR. REED L. BUFFINGTON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Reed L. Buffington. Chabot College in Hayward, California, will dedicate the Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center Building on November 3, 2010. It is a fitting tribute to Dr. Buffington's contributions.

Dr. Buffington held the position of President/ Superintendent of Chabot College from its founding in September of 1961 until his retirement in 1981. When asked by a newspaper reporter to name his chief objective for the new college, Dr. Buffington replied, "Quality! . . . quality in everything we do."

The Hayward community continues to benefit from his legacy and from his eponymous awards for alumni, students, and faculty. Upon his retirement, Dr. Buffington created an endowment for the prestigious Buffington Award, annually awarded for excellence in a teaching career. Dr. Buffington began his own career in education as a political science instructor. He earned A.B. and M.A. degrees in political science from the University of Chicago and a Doctorate in Education from Stanford University.

During his tenure at Chabot College, Dr. Buffington made innumerable contributions to higher education in California and to local civic organizations. A passage from the book Chabot College: The First Twenty Years aptly reflects Dr. Buffington's enduring legacy of excellence and service to Chabot College, and the community: "From the very beginning, this has been Reed Buffington's college, dedicated in its every thought, deed, and act to the fulfillment of the educational and cultural needs, hopes, and desires of the people of South County."

I join the community in welcoming the Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center. I also join Dr. Buffington's colleagues in expressing appreciation for his extraordinary leadership.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER ADAM MERSHON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Adam Mershon. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Chris has earned the rank of Patrol Leader in his troop and is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Chris has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Adam Mershon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM BLAKE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. William Blake, a World War II veteran and resident of Edison, New Jersey. Mr. Blake will be honored with the Medal of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor by the Consul General of France, Mr. Philippe Lalliot for his brave actions during combat. Mr. Blake's courageous actions in combat are deserving of this body's recognition.

Mr. Blake served as a corporal with the United States Army from April 14, 1944 to June 11, 1945. During this time, Mr. Blake displayed valor and bravery. He began as a tank driver with the 2nd Armored Division. As tensions in the region began to grow, in June 1944, Mr. Blake's division was deeply entrenched in the Battle of Normandy, specifi-

cally fighting in the Cotentin Peninsula. His heroic actions resulted in the liberation of Carentan. By July 1944, Mr. Blake and his brothers in arms were heavily engaged in Operation Cobra. Subsequent combat missions included the Battle of the Bulge, before his unit was finally stationed in Schonebeck, Germany until July 1945. Mr. Blake's valiant efforts to defend our nation during World War II are noble and highly commendable.

As a result of his courageous efforts, Mr. Blake was awarded the Silver Star Medal. This honor is the third-highest military decoration for valor awarded to a member of any branch of the Armed Forces. Mr. Blake is also the recipient of a Purple Heart. Today he is being honored with the Medal of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor. His nomination to the position of Chevalier in the Legion d'Honneur was approved by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. The Chevalier of the Legion of Honor is the highest military distinction awarded by France.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in congratulating Mr. William Blake as he receives this prestigious award. His dedication to this country serves as a shining example of what bravery and determination can accomplish.

HONORING SIKH AMERICAN AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sikh American community on the occasion of Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month which is celebrated in November.

For over a century, California's Central Valley has boasted a flourishing concentration of Sikh Americans, sharing a rich history, mutual understanding, and shared principles. In 1912, the first Sikh Gurdwara in the United States was established in Stockton, California as Sikh Americans settled in the region, coming to labor in agricultural and railroad pursuits. Over the years, Sikh Americans have found many successes as over 700,000 have made their homes across our nation.

From serving as Members of Congress, such as Dalip Singh Saund did for three terms, to Mayors of California cities such as San Joaquin, Sikh Americans have quickly become an active force in American public policy. When leading industry positions in agriculture, small business, and medicine, Sikh Americans bring a distinctive pride to many endeavors, and an unparalleled work ethic.

On the first Sunday of each November Sikh Americans throughout our nation celebrate the coronation day of Sikh Scripture as Guru Gaddi Divas with parades and festivals. As we strive to appreciate the vibrant diversity and contributions of all religions and cultures in our nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sikh American community as they celebrate Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month this November.